

## ***MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE***

***April 14, 2005***

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

**SUBJECT:** *Water Supplies and the Growth Outlook for the San Bernardino Valley and San Gorgonio Pass Watersheds*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive for future policy consideration.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In a continuation of Task Force reviews of future growth and water supply planning around the SCAG region and beyond the Metropolitan Water District's service area, a selection of speakers will discuss these issues within the context of the San Bernardino Valley and San Gorgonio Pass Watersheds.

The San Bernardino Valley panel will include Bob Reiter (General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District), Stacey Aldstadt (Deputy General Manager, San Bernardino City Water Department), and Doug Headrick (Water System Manager, City of Redlands).

The San Gorgonio Pass Watershed panel will include Steve Stockton (General Manager, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency), Joe Zoba (General Manager, Yucaipa Valley Water District), Chuck Butcher (General Manager, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District) and Andy Schlange (General Manager, San Timoteo Watershed Management Authority).

Growth forecasts for the Valley and Pass areas indicate substantial growth over the next 25 years. Population will grow from 588,000 to 915,000; housing units will increase from 187,000 to nearly 322,000; jobs will rise from 213,000 to more than 222,000. Under current state law a large housing development, prior to the issuance of building permits, will be required to provide assurances that future water supplies are adequate to serve not only that development but also existing consumers for the next 20 years. This requirement links water supplies with the delivery of much needed housing in the SCAG region.

San Bernardino Valley: The overall outlook for the Valley will be discussed by **Bob Reiter**, General Manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD). This District is a State Water Contractor with an entitlement to water for the State Water Project. In addition to managing groundwater supplies, SBVMWD works with the retail water agencies in the Valley to provide imported water supplies to the Valley.

The District was formed in 1954 to plan long-range water supply for the San Bernardino Valley. Its enabling special district act includes a broad range of powers to provide water, as well as wastewater, stormwater disposal, recreation, and fire protection services.

SBVMWD covers about 325 square miles in southwestern San Bernardino County and has a population of about 600,000. It spans the eastern two-thirds of the San Bernardino Valley, the Crafton Hills, and a portion of the Yucaipa Valley, and includes the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, Grand Terrace, and Yucaipa.

**Stacey Aldstadt**, Deputy General Manager of the San Bernardino Water Department, will discuss the City's growth plans and its related strategy for delivering needed water supplies. The Department relies exclusively on groundwater production with 60 wells located in its 45 square mile service area. This system has more than 40,000 service connections served through 551 miles of water mains. All groundwater pumped from the basin is disinfected and is delivered to 18 different pressure zones with a combined storage of approximately 100 million gallons. The Department also reclaims over 30,000 million gallons of water each day for eventual discharge to the Santa Ana River.

**Doug Headrick**, Water Utilities Manager for the City of Redlands, will brief the Task Force on a water reclamation project that will serve his community of 75,000. The City's average daily water consumption is 20 million gallons per day (mgd) with a maximum daily of 45 mgd in the summer. The average consumption per capita is approximately 320 gallons per day. The City relies primarily on treated groundwater for its water supplies. Its water transmission and distribution pipelines range in size from 1 to 36 inches in diameter. 370 miles of pipeline are required to serve 19,000 metered domestic water connections. The Redlands service area varies in elevation from approximately 1,100 to 2,600 feet above sea level. This elevation differential requires seven major pressure zones and two sub-zones to adequately serve all consumers with reasonable water pressures.

San Gorgonio Pass Watershed: The overall outlook for growth and water supplies in the Pass Watershed will be presented by **Steve Stockton**, General Manager of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA). SGPWA is the State Water Contractor for the Watershed with an entitlement to supplemental water imports from the State Water Project. The Agency has responsibility for bringing State Project Water to the Pass Watershed and has recently begun to implement this vision.

**Joe Zoba**, General Manager of the Yucaipa Valley Water District, will discuss the District's outlook for growth and reliable water supplies. The District provides water, wastewater, and recycled water service to customers in the Cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa and portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The Yucaipa valley is bounded by the San Bernardino National Forest to the north and east, low lying hills to the south, and the Crafton Hills to the northwest. The foothills which surround the valley range in elevation from about 2,200 feet in the south to over 8,400 feet at Oak Glen Peak in the north. The valley floor gently slopes from 2,000 feet at the beginning of Live Oak Canyon, to 3,800 feet at the highest portion of the northern bench. With groundwater as its prime source of water, the District maintains 31 wells and an extensive pipeline system to serve its agricultural and domestic customers.

**Chuck Butcher**, General Manager of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Municipal Water District, will present

the water supply challenges associated with the growth occurring in the BCVMWD service area. The District historically has met the irrigation needs of agriculture but now is experiencing substantial growth in domestic use. This growth is reflected in a 50% increase in service connections in the last three years, now totaling 8,550. The current annual growth rate for new connections is now averaging 1,000. This presents a challenge for developing the water resources that will serve this growth in the District's service area. Though groundwater has been the primary source of water for BCVMWD in the past, the District has future interests in supplementing this supply with other sources of water.

**Andy Schlange**, General Manager of San Timoteo Watershed Management Authority, will discuss the need for coordinated groundwater management in the Pass Watershed. Without appropriate governance and management policies the Pass Watershed will be severely limited in its ability to support the new water demands created by the substantial residential growth expected in the area.